REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-21 are all of the pending claims, with claims 1 and 14 being written in independent form.

The Examiner rejects <u>claims 1-10 and 12-21</u> under USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,961,233 to Hoeing et al. ("Hoeing"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Hoeing reference is not prior art under any subsection of 35 USC §102. For example:

(1)   with respect to *35 USC §102(a)*, the present application's effective US filing date (November 7, 2003) predates Hoeing's publication date (February 5, 2004);

(2)   with respect to *35 USC §102(b)*, the present application's effective US filing date (November 7, 2003) predates Hoeing's publication date (February 5, 2004); and

(3)   with respect to *35 USC §102(e)*, the present applications priority date (January 13, 2003) predates Hoeing's US filing date (July 10, 2003).

To overcome the rejection based on the Hoeing reference, Applicants will perfect the claim to priority by submitting a verified English language translation of DE 10301004.1. The verified English language translation is forthcoming.
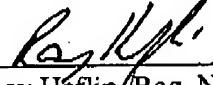
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CONCLUSION

Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants petition for a two (2) months extension of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the $450.00 extension fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

The Commissioner is authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or under 37 CFR § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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